

If you have questions or to report a suspected monkeypox case, contact the Section of Epidemiology (SOE) at 1-907- 269-8000. SOE also maintains a 24-hour emergency number, 1-800-478-0084.

Monkeypox Updates for Providers

Aug. 3, 2022

First case of monkeypox announced in Alaska

On July 29, the Alaska Department of Health and the Anchorage Health Department announced the first positive monkeypox test result in Alaska. The individual had not traveled but was a close contact of a person who had recently traveled outside of Alaska. Read the [press release](#). Providers are urged to test any patient who is showing signs and symptoms of monkeypox.

JYNNEOS Vaccine Allocation in Alaska

The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the JYNNEOS vaccine be ideally given within 4 days of exposure to the monkeypox virus but may be given up to 14 days after exposure. The sooner it is given, the more likely it is to prevent disease but administration between 4-14 days may still reduce symptoms. Vaccination >14 days after exposure may be considered in certain clinical situations (e.g., high risk exposure in a person at high risk for severe disease, such as people who are severely immunocompromised).

People who are immunocompromised are likely at increased risk for severe outcomes from monkeypox infection. As such, particular attention should be paid to identifying and offering vaccination to immunocompromised people who meet the eligibility criteria described below.

Examples of immunocompromising conditions include but are not limited to AIDS, atopic dermatitis or eczema, leukemia, lymphoma, organ transplantation, generalized malignancy, radiation therapy, or receipt of high-dose corticosteroids (>10 mg prednisone/day or equivalent for ≥ 2 weeks) or other immunomodulatory drugs.

JYNNEOS vaccine is FDA-approved for people aged 18 years and older. Alaska's allocation is prioritized for people 18+ who live or work in Alaska. Vaccine may be available on a case-by-case basis to people younger than 18 or to those visiting Alaska temporarily.

Listed below are the first two tiers currently recommended for vaccine prioritization due to the limited federal supply of JYNNEOS. There are currently approximately 130 doses of JYNNEOS vaccine available in Alaska. The federal allotment for Alaska for the next 4-6 weeks is an additional 480 doses; of which, 200 doses is scheduled to arrive within the next week.

Because Anchorage is the only Alaska location that has had known monkeypox transmission, some vaccine will initially be distributed to certain clinics in the Municipality of Anchorage including the Anchorage Health Department. People living outside the Municipality of Anchorage who meet the criteria for Tiers 1 or 2 should contact their local public health center to discuss their risk and vaccine eligibility.

Additional information about who should receive vaccine in Alaska and where people can find it will be posted on the DPH [monkeypox website](#) as more vaccine becomes available.

Tier 1: Post-exposure prophylaxis vaccination (PEP) for people (regardless of gender) who have had a documented/notified exposure to someone with monkeypox, including:

- People who have been identified by public health authorities as a contact with [high or intermediate risk exposure](#) to monkeypox.
- People who have been alerted that they may have been exposed to monkeypox, even if they are not contacted by a public health authority (e.g., a person who received a notification from a recent sexual partner or an anonymous notification of exposure).

Tier 2: Expanded post-exposure prophylaxis vaccination (PEP++) to reach people potentially at increased risk for monkeypox even if they have not had a documented/notified exposure to someone with monkeypox, including:

- Gay, bisexual, or other men or transgender people who have sex with men AND
- Have had multiple or anonymous sexual partners in the past 14 days.

CDC Health Update for Clinicians on Monkeypox in People with HIV, Children and Adolescents, and People who are Pregnant or Breastfeeding

On July 30, the CDC issued a Health Update via the CDC's Health Alert Network to alert clinicians to clinical considerations for preventing, diagnosing, and managing monkeypox in people with HIV, children, adolescents, and people who are pregnant or breastfeeding. Read the [CDC Health Update](#). People with HIV, individuals who are immunocompromised, children, adolescents, and people who are pregnant or breastfeeding may be at risk for increased disease severity and adverse health outcomes associated with monkeypox infection. Clinicians should be familiar with unique clinical considerations for monkeypox in these patient populations.

CDC Health Update for Clinicians on Testing and Treatment for Monkeypox

On July 28, the CDC issued a Health Update via the CDC's Health Alert Network to alert clinicians on commercial testing capability, collecting clinical specimens for testing, and using TPOXX® (tecovirimat) for treating monkeypox. Read the [CDC Health Update](#). The Alaska State Public Health Laboratory continues to recommend swabbing 2 lesions per patient, using 2 swabs per lesion. Swabs should be dry (not in UTM or VTM) and submitted in separate

containers. If obtaining monkeypox testing through a commercial laboratory, follow specimen collection instructions from that laboratory.

Monkeypox Resources for Providers

- The CDC monkeypox website for clinicians provides extensive information, including photos of monkeypox lesions, specimen collection instructions, and infection control guidance:
 - [Information for Healthcare Professionals](#)
 - [Clinical Recognition](#)
 - [Considerations for Monkeypox Vaccination](#)
 - [Preparation and Collection of Specimens](#)
 - [Infection Control](#)
 - [Obtaining and Using TPOXX \(Tecovirimat\)](#)
 - [Treatment Information for Healthcare Professionals](#)
 - [Clinical Considerations for Monkeypox in People Who are Pregnant or Breastfeeding](#)
 - [Clinical Considerations for Monkeypox in Children and Adolescents](#)
 - [Clinical Considerations for Treatment and Prophylaxis of Monkeypox virus Infection in People with HIV](#)
- The CDC Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) hosted a webinar on monkeypox clinical diagnosis and treatment on June 29. Please review the recording and slides [here](#).
- The National Network of STD Clinical Prevention Training Centers provides resources such as free continuing education courses to help ensure clinicians have the most up-to-date information on the diagnosis and treatment of STIs. View those resources [here](#).
- The Alaska Department of Health has a [monkeypox webpage](#) for information specific to Alaska.